

Testimony of Joyce Wood
In Support of HB 5473 AN ACT CONCERNING ACTIONS TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR
THE SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A MINOR

Judiciary Committee
March 17, 2010

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

When a child is assaulted, incestuously or otherwise, often the threat of punishment is what keeps a child from disclosing. Often, unfortunately, a child is not believed if they do disclose. If the offender is a family member, the action is often swept under the rug as if it will go away by silence.

If a person is assaulted at any age, perhaps badly hurt physically - most definitely hurt emotionally, life changes immediately, against our will, never to return to 'normal' as we once knew it. Some days trying to put one foot in front of the other is almost impossible.

Whose call is it to say your courage has to come before you are 48?

How long is too long to recover? How long is too long to ask for damages?

Unless you have walked in these shoes where your feet don't really fit, you don't know, you can't imagine, and you can't judge what time is the right time for justice.

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